

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-24 (canceled).

25 (currently amended). A method of preparing a zinc anode composition as an intimate mixture of an insoluble salt of a C6-C30 fatty acid and zinc hydroxide comprising the steps of:

(i) preparing a suspension of a first precipitate of zinc hydroxide in a solution of an alkali salt of a C6-C30 fatty acid;

~~(ii) mixing a solution of an alkali salt of a C6-C30 fatty acid with the suspension of a first precipitate of zinc hydroxide to provide a mix;~~ and then

~~(iii)~~ (ii) adding a solution of a salt of an acid to the mix suspension to provide as the intimate mixture the zinc anode composition as a second precipitate;

wherein ~~the zinc anode composition is a mixture of zinc hydroxide and an insoluble salt of a C6-C30 fatty acid that has an electrochemically active form of zinc.~~

26 (original). A method as claimed in Claim 25 wherein the first precipitate includes graphite.

27 (cancelled).

28 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 25 wherein the alkali salt of the C6-C30 fatty acid is an alkali salt of a naturally occurring C12-C22 fatty acid.

29 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 25 wherein the alkali salt of the C6-C30 fatty acid is an alkali metal salt of stearate.

30 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 25 wherein the alkali salt of the C6-C30 fatty acid is potassium stearate.

31 (currently amended). A method as claimed in Claim 30 wherein the salt of is a mineral acid salt and is zinc sulphate.

32 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 30 wherein the composition is a mixture of zinc stearate and either zinc hydroxide or a combination of zinc oxide and zinc hydroxide.

33 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 32 wherein the molar ratio of zinc stearate to either zinc hydroxide or a combination of zinc oxide and zinc hydroxide is in the range 0.0001:1 to 0.5:1.

34 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 33 wherein the range is 0.05:1 to 0.4:1.

35 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 34 wherein the range is 0.075:1 to 0.25:1.

36 (currently amended). A method as claimed in Claim 30 wherein the salt of is a mineral acid salt and is calcium nitrate.

37 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 36 wherein the composition is a mixture of calcium stearate and either zinc hydroxide or a combination of zinc oxide and zinc hydroxide.

38 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 37 wherein the molar ratio of calcium stearate to either zinc hydroxide or a combination of zinc oxide and zinc hydroxide is in the range 0.0001:1 to 0.2:1.

39 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 38 wherein the range is 0.01:1 to 0.1:1.

40 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 39 wherein the range is 0.03:1 to 0.15:1.

41-87 (canceled).